manufacturing industry today. As a consequences of this growth combined with rapid product obsolescence, discarded electronic equipment or e-waste is now one of the fastest growing waste streams in the world. This e-waste comprises a broad and growing range of electronic appliances in the consumer electronics, Communication and Information Technology sector (i.e. Cellphones, PCs, TVs, Microwave Ovens etc.). It was estimated that the volume of e-waste is increasing by 3 to 5% per year which is 3 times faster than the rate at which normal municipal waste is growing.

With a view to examine all aspects of e-waste in the Indian context, the Government has constituted a Working Group consisting of representatives of Regulatory Agencies, NGOs, Industry assocations and experts in the field.

Cheating with consumers by Reliance India

†2512. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that in mobile service of Reliance Company billing starts as soon as number is dialled;

(b) whether consumers have been made aware of this process of Reliance Company;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether this is not a king of cheating with consumers; and

(d) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had received some complaints in this regard and in March 2004, it had asked M/s. IMRB, an independent agency which carry out audit of performance of all service providers on behalf of TRAI, to investigate the complaints. The agency had reported that in the network of Reliance Infocomm Ltd., the billing starts from the time the call is answered and not as soon as the number is dialled. This has also been reconfirmed recently by the Billing Auditing Agency engaged by TRAI.

(d) Does not arise in view of (a) to (c) above.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.